



**Paul J. Diodati**  
*Director*

*Commonwealth of Massachusetts*  
**Division of Marine Fisheries**  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA 02114  
(617) 626.1520  
Fax (617) 626.1509



***Marine Fisheries Advisory***  
**January 6, 2004**

**ASMFC HEARING ON AMENDMENT 2 TO THE ATLANTIC HERRING FMP**  
**Massachusetts to host hearing on February 18, 2004**

---

On Wednesday, February 18 *Marine Fisheries* will host a public hearing to discuss Amendment 2 to the Atlantic Herring Interstate Fishery Management Plan (FMP). The Massachusetts meeting will take place at 7PM on Wednesday, February 18, 2004 at the Holiday Inn – Dedham (55 Ariadne Road; Dedham, MA). For further information on the meeting contact Melanie Griffin at (617) 626-1528. Below are details on the ASMFC approved Public Information Document (PID).

-----  
The Commission's Atlantic Herring Section approved the Public Information Document (PID) for Amendment 2 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for public review and comment. Initially developed in response to increased effort in the inshore Gulf of Maine component of the stock complex, the PID has expanded to address the implementation of a limited access program for all management areas. Additionally, the PID identifies maximum sustainable yield, management area boundaries, spawning area restrictions, internal waters processing, fixed gear fisheries, as well as several other issues for public comment. While many of the PID topics are similar to the New England Fishery Management Council's (NEFMC) scoping document for Amendment 1 to the federal FMP, the Commission is specifically seeking input on the management of Atlantic herring in state waters.

In addition to approving the PID in December 2003, the Section approved a timeline that brings the Commission's process in sync with the development of the NEFMC's Amendment 1 to the federal FMP. The PID is the first step in the amendment development process. Following the public comment period, the Section will begin drafting Amendment 2 to the Interstate FMP.

Fishermen and other interested groups are encouraged to provide input on the PID, either through attending public hearings or providing written comments. Copies can be obtained by contacting the Commission at (202) 289-6400 or via the Commission's website at [www.asmfc.org](http://www.asmfc.org) under Public Input. While public comment will be accepted throughout the entire process, comments on the PID will be accepted until March 5, 2004. All comments should be forwarded to Megan Gamble, Atlantic Herring Fishery Management Plan Coordinator, 1444 'Eye' Street, NW, Sixth Floor, Washington, DC 20005; (202) 289-6051 (FAX) or at <[mgamble@asmfc.org](mailto:mgamble@asmfc.org)>. For more information, please contact Megan Gamble at (202) 289-6400.